

VLR-4/28/95 NRHP-7/21/95

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking 'x' in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter 'N/A' for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm**
other names/site number **VDHR FILE # 33-22**

2. Location

street & number **Routes 122 and 950** N/A not for publication
city or town **Hales Ford** X vicinity
state **Virginia** code **VA** county **Franklin** code **067** zip code **24151**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 4-15-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

VA DEPT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
____ entered in the National Register. _____
___ See continuation sheet. _____
___ determined eligible for the National Register. _____
___ See continuation sheet. _____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
___ removed from the National Register. _____
___ other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>10</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
COMMERCE	department store
HEALTH CARE	clinic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>
VACANT	

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Georgian
- Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	STONE
walls	WOOD
roof	METAL
other	BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1782 - 1912

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Hook, John

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
#
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
#

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 60 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing			
1	17	616950	411150	3	17	617490	4110600
2	17	617490	4111550	4	17	616950	4110600

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	J. Daniel Pezzoni	date	February 20, 1995
organization	J. Daniel Pezzoni, Preservation Consultant	telephone	(703) 366-0787
street & number	PO Box 7825	zip code	24019-0825
city or town	Roanoke state VA		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm
Franklin Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm is located at the junction of VA 122 and SR 950 (Dovetail Lane) in northeast Franklin County, Virginia. The sixty-acre historic core of the farm occupies a ridge above a flooded section of the Staunton (Roanoke) River, now Smith Mountain Lake. VA 122 leads southwestward from the farm to the Booker T. Washington National Monument, located approximately three miles away. The principal building on the farm is the main house, a ca. 1855 Greek Revival farmhouse that incorporates an earlier dwelling. The south-facing two-story frame house has weatherboard siding (painted white), an asphalt-shingled hip roof, an ell, and a center-passage plan. Behind it stands a one-story frame building with Georgian detailing identified as the ca. 1784 John Hook Store. The store has beaded weatherboard siding (painted white historically) and a metal-sheathed gable roof; it was apparently used as a slave quarter during the antebellum period, and it is linked to a once separate one-room frame building that may also have served as a slave dwelling. Near the house and store are other historic features, mostly nineteenth-century buildings and building sites.

Inventory

1. Main House. Ca. 1855 with earlier and later sections. Contributing building.
2. John Hook Store/Powell Slave Quarter. Ca. 1784. Contributing building.
3. Dr. John A. Moorman Office. Ca. 1890. Contributing building.
4. Privy. Early 1960s. Noncontributing building.
5. Ice House Site. Nineteenth century. Contributing site.
6. Carriage House Site. Nineteenth century. Contributing site.
7. Workshop Site. Nineteenth century. Contributing site.
8. Barn Site. Nineteenth century. Contributing site.
9. Outbuilding Site. Nineteenth century. Contributing site.
10. Original site of John Hook Store. Ca. 1784. Contributing site.
11. House Site. Early nineteenth century. Contributing site.
12. Spring. Nineteenth century. Contributing site.
13. Ice Pond Site. Nineteenth century. Contributing site.
14. Road Bed. Nineteenth century. Contributing site.

Main House

The Hook-Powell-Moorman farmhouse stands at the crest of a hill on the north side of VA 122, a site that once gave it commanding views of the Staunton River valley to the southeast and northwest. The nearly-symmetrical three-bay facade is dominated by a two-tier porch that shelters front entrances on the first and second stories (see Exhibit A). The first porch tier,

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which dates to the 1850s, has square columns and pilasters with coved caps; the second tier, added about 1895, has columns and pilasters that harmonize with the Greek Revival character of the lower tier but have caps with cyma reversa profiles. Balustrades with turned balusters span between the columns of both tiers; both tiers have small sawn brackets in their cornices; and the gabled roof features beaded tongue-and-groove panels, a rectangular louvered vent, and milled ornament (historical photographs show the porch in its final form with a polychrome paint scheme). Flanking the porch are six-over-nine-sash windows on the first story and six-over-six-sash windows on the second story (this sash pattern is repeated in the windows of the other elevations). The windows and the first- and second-story front entrances have narrow Greek Revival surrounds with corner blocks (identical surrounds appear on the other elevations). The first-story entrance has a two-panel door (standard throughout the house) and is surmounted by a three-light transom; the second-story entrance has a four-panel door.

The house foundation and chimneys are of masonry construction. Brick chimneys with stone foundations and stepped shoulders rise on the east and west ends of the house and on the north gable end of the two-story section of the ell. The east chimney is constructed of four-course American bond and has pencilled mortar joints; the west chimney is modern stretcher-bond construction; and the random-bond north chimney has a detached stack and pencilled mortar joints. The stone foundation was built during two distinct phases that reflect the construction of the original section of the house and its ca. 1855 enlargement (see architectural analysis). The original foundation (under the west end of the house and the two-story section of the ell) contains a full basement and has wide mortar joints studded with smaller stones, a decorative treatment. The ca. 1855 foundation (under the center passage and east end of the house) contains a crawlspace and is parged and scored to simulate ashlar masonry. Both foundations have horizontally barred vents, at least one of which was once painted red.

A one-story porch extends along the west elevation of the two-story ell and wraps around its north end. This porch has square posts with small sawn brackets, plain balusters, a flush board ceiling, and log joists that run its full length. At the north end of the porch is a well with a board enclosure, adjoined by a concrete watering trough located on the ground outside the porch. At the south end of the porch is an attachment for a former bell that was rung by people needing the assistance of Dr. John A. Moorman, who lived in the house during the late nineteenth century. On the north elevation of the house, sheltering the rear entrance to the center passage, is a porch with posts similar to those of the side porch. Above this porch is a bathroom. The 1880s one-story kitchen ell has a hip roof and a small window on its north elevation that was probably used for passing food or wastes to and from the interior.

The interior of the farmhouse, like the exterior, is Greek Revival in over-all character with scattered evidence of earlier fabric. Walls and ceilings have plaster and circular-sawn lath finishes with calcimine painting and boldly-patterned early-twentieth-century (or earlier) wallpaper. Door and window surrounds have symmetrical moldings and plain corner blocks.

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Doors are typically two-panel and are hung on butt hinges; the doors in most rooms have contrasting graining, with dark rails and stiles and lighter panels, but the doors in the second-story ell and west rooms are entirely grained in a light tan color. All mantels have the characteristic Greek Revival form of a plain frieze supported by tapered pilasters. The mantel in the second-story east room preserves early pink-veined yellow marbling. Fireboxes and hearths are constructed of brick, with the exception of the firebox in the first-story ell room, which is lined with soapstone blocks.

A two-run stair with shaft-like turned newel posts capped by globe finials, plain balusters, and molded treads rises in the center passage. In the back corner of the center passage a doorway leads to a transverse passage that separates the first-story west and ell rooms. An enclosed winder stair rises from this transverse passage. Attached to the ceiling of the first-story ell room (formerly the dining room) are wood hooks that supported a punka or fly-sweeper. The punka was operated by a servant who pulled a cord that passed over a pulley suspended from a third wood attachment. The punka itself, now gone, was a red fabric flap with tassels. Another feature of the first-story ell room, visible where the plaster has fallen from the ceiling, are beaded ceiling joists. These joists and similar ones in the first-story west room indicate that the ca. 1855 house incorporates an earlier dwelling (see architectural analysis). The center and transverse passages feature chair rails with bullnose moldings; other rooms in the house lack chair rails but often feature wood strips at the level of the door heads into which nails were driven to form clothes hooks. Partitioned off from the second-story stair landings are small rooms used for storage or as work spaces, and the landing above the center passage features a ca. 1855 clothes closet. Hewn and straight-sawn wall framing members, joined with pegged mortise and tenon connections, are visible throughout the interior.

The attic is reached by an enclosed stair that rises from the landing above the transverse hall. The roof is constructed of light sawn rafters that meet at ridge boards. The roof over the two-story ell has a gable with four-light windows.

The basement is reached by a stone bulkhead on the east elevation of the one-story kitchen ell (formerly the basement was entered at its south end). In the basement are a number of features relating to the early dwelling incorporated into the present house. Hewn sills are apparent, as are hewn or pit-sawn joists (several joists are hewn on one face and pit-sawn on the other). Parallel to the joists is a single summer beam located directly under the wall between the transverse passage and the first-story ell room. This beam--which is so expertly hewn that it appears planed--bears Roman numeral builders marks (I through VIII) that indicate the connection points of the wall studs above. The basement is divided in two by a partition of circular-sawn boards with a reused beaded batten door hung on HL hinges. At the north end of the basement is another batten door, this one hung on wrought strap hinges and crude pintels and provided with a wood and iron lock box. The basement walls are whitewashed and have prism mortar joints. The crawlspaces under other sections of the house reveal floor structures

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constructed with hewn sills and log joists.

John Hook Store/Powell Slave Quarter

The building identified as John Hook's ca. 1784 store occupies the west end of a linear structure that also incorporates an early slave dwelling and a modern hyphen. According to tradition, the store originally stood to the southwest of the main house across VA 122 (apparent remnants of a stone foundation are still visible at the original site), but it was moved by the Powell family to its present location behind the main house to serve as a slave quarter. The store measures twenty-four by sixteen feet, small by modern standards but typical for country stores of its period (see Exhibit B). The exterior is distinguished by a modillion cornice on the north elevation, and bed moldings under the eaves of both north and south elevations. Exterior features in addition to these rare local vestiges of Georgian Style detailing include an entry and six-over-six- and four-over-four-sash windows on the south elevation, a north-elevation entry with a six-light transom, and a large stone chimney on the west gable end. The store interior has been altered, most recently in the early twentieth century when the walls were sheathed with narrow tongue-and-groove boards and the mid-nineteenth-century fireplace was provided with a new mantel. Nevertheless, several early features survive. A partition of beaded vertical boards, made rigid by beaded cross boards, replaces or reconfigures an earlier partition, its former presence and position indicated by mortises in an overhead joist. The original partition divided the interior into a larger room identified as a store (or sales) room, and a smaller counting room. The present partition has two doorways, an early one near the partition's mid-point provided with a beaded batten door hung on HL hinges, and another, located against the north exterior wall, that appears to have been cut out at a later date and then boarded back up. The south-elevation entry has a beaded surround and a beaded batten door hung on finely-crafted wrought strap hinges with spade-from ends. An interruption in the planed ceiling joists may indicate the former existence of a stair in the southwest corner of the larger room; another cut appears in the ceiling of the smaller room.

At the opposite east end front the store is the one-room building identified as a slave dwelling. The approximately sixteen by sixteen foot building has a stone chimney with prism mortar joints similar to those that appear in the foundation of the oldest section of the main house and in the chimneys of the house ruin located on Dovetail Lane. The building's chimney construction suggests it dates to the same period as the original house and also that it stood in its present location before the Hook Store, with its cruder stone chimney, was moved next to it in the antebellum period. The building is sheathed with beaded weatherboards attached by nails with hand-wrought heads, and it has corrugated-metal roofing and six-over-six-sash windows. Inside are flush board walls, a fireplace with a whitewashed stone surround and a simple mantel shelf, evidence for a former corner stair, and a front door hung on HL hinges. Above hewn ceiling joists is a roof with hewn common rafter couples connected by hewn collar beams and mortise-and-tenoned and pegged at the ridge. In 1926, Warren L. Moorman, Sr. constructed a one-room

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frame hyphen linking the store and slave dwelling.

Dr. John A. Moorman Office

The ca. 1890 office is a one-story frame building with weatherboard siding (painted white), six-over-six-sash windows, an entrance with a peaked lintel and a modern door, and a metal-sheathed pyramidal roof. Under the office are stone footers, hewn sills, and log joists. The interior walls and ceiling are sheathed with varnished flush boards. On the north wall are shelves and a hinged work table with later wood legs. Nailed to the shelf stile above the table is a wood fixture that formerly supported a set of scales. Pasted to or scribbled on the shelf stiles are addresses for chemical suppliers, instructions on how to treat poisoning, and a prescription for "Colorless Codeine," "Carbolic Acid," "Aqua Alumina," and other substances.

Other Outbuildings, Building Sites, and Landscape Features

In the immediate vicinity of the main house, store, and office are located one building (a 1960s, shed-roofed, one-seater privy behind the store) and several archaeological sites. To the northeast of the main house is a partially-filled pit that represents the remains of a circular ice house. This ice house had a conical roof and latticed above-ground walls. Off the north side of the office is the site of a combined two-vehicle carriage house and slatted corncrib. Off the west end of the store is the site of workshop/tool shed (approximately twelve feet by sixteen feet in dimension) that featured an outdoor anvil and workbench. To the northwest of the store is the site of a horse barn. Presently, the yard surrounding the house is devoid of ornamental landscape features, but in years past the yard was enclosed by a picket fence with a scalloped top edge and was planted with many trees and ornamental shrubs. House plants and other plants requiring protection from the cold were overwintered in a cold frame located off the southeast corner of the main house.

Other sites are located further afield. On a wooded ridge to the northeast of the main house are the stone foundations of a former outbuilding of unknown function. These foundations form three sides of a rectangle of approximately seven by seventeen feet in size. Further to the north is the general location of a slave cemetery. This cemetery was readily apparent in the 1930s, consisting of grave depressions marked by a fieldstone head and foot markers, but the exact location is now unknown. Across VA 122 and due south of the office, about thirteen yards from the highway shoulder, are the remains of a foundation believed to be that of the John Hook Store in its original location. The site was also occupied by a barn in later years. Further to the south, on a hillside overlooking SR 950 (Dovetail Lane) and an unnamed branch, stand the ruins of an antebellum house that burned in 1947. The ruins consist of two stone and brick chimneys and stone foundations forming a square of approximately twenty by twenty feet with a smaller ell. The ell chimney (the better preserved of the two) has stonework with prism mortar joints and brick shoulders and stack with pencilled mortar joints and several vitrified headers (these

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features may relate it temporally to the original section of the main house). Below the house ruins and across the branch is a spring that was in use during the nineteenth century. Downstream on the branch are the remains of the Moorman ice pond and the trench-like bed of an old road that once led from the area of the main house southward. Located outside the area included in the nomination, but historically associated with the farm, are a collapsed v-notched log tobacco barn formerly heated by stone fireboxes, and the Moorman Cemetery, containing a marble obelisk that marks the graves of John A. and Kate P. Moorman and two smaller monuments for children who died as infants. The tobacco barn and cemetery stand to the west of the main house on an adjoining parcel.

Architectural Analysis

The buildings and ruins scattered across the Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm possess architectural significance at several levels. At least one building, and possibly as many as four buildings and sites date to the late eighteenth century. The modillion cornice and other Georgian features of the building identified as the store of John Hook clearly date it to the 1700s, and a strong possibility exists that the dwelling incorporated into the ca. 1855 farmhouse represents a portion of Hook's 1780s residence. The fine stonework and prism mortar joints of the cellar under this dwelling are similar to the detailing of the chimney of the one-room building connected to the store (possibly a slave dwelling) and the chimneys of the house ruin located on Dovetail Lane (possibly an overseer's residence); in other words, architectural affinities suggest that all three buildings were built at roughly the same time.¹ It may be that the Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm preserves a significant fragment of John Hook's 1780s farm: his residence, his store, his overseer's house, and one of probably several dwellings occupied by his slaves. Any one of these buildings would represent a rare survival in the southwest Virginia Piedmont context of Franklin County. Four related early buildings--a relatively intact late-eighteenth-century domestic complex--would represent a resource of considerable significance.

The store is clearly notable architecturally for its early date and locally rare Georgian detailing, but its identification as the ca. 1784 store of backcountry merchant John Hook is not absolutely certain. Questions are raised by the Works Progress Administration report on the property, which notes that "the store building has long since fallen in, and only a pile of rock is left of the 'Early Trading Post' of Hale's Ford, erected by John Hook." This contradicts long-standing tradition, as well as architectural characteristics of the building (discussed below) that support a commercial interpretation. It may be that the WPA author, despite having interviewed descendants of John Hook and others who remembered the farm as it was during the mid-nineteenth century, was simply unaware that Hook's store had been moved from its original site (perhaps marked by a "pile of rock" in the 1930s) to a new location and use as a slave quarter.

Assuming that the building is indeed the ca. 1784 John Hook Store, it numbers among only a dozen or so eighteenth-century commercial buildings to survive in Virginia, according to the

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Colonial Williamsburg Department of Historical Research.² Like other Virginia country stores of its day, those that survive and those known through period descriptions, Hook's store is relatively small in size compared to nineteenth-century country stores, and it has an interior divided into a "store room" used for storing goods and transacting business, and a "counting room" used for office functions such as record-keeping. The modillion cornice on the north elevation, which at first consideration seems over-fine for such a small building, is entirely in keeping with the general refinement of other eighteenth-century stores; architectural niceties reinforced the shopper's perception of the quality of the goods contained within. The interior originally featured shelves and pigeon holes, although no traces of these have been discovered.³

More problematic than the interpretation of Hook's store is the identification of the early dwelling incorporated into the later house on the farm. Speculation has centered on whether this dwelling is one and the same as John Hook's eighteenth-century residence. In August 1782, Hook sketched out plans and specifications for a house to be built at "Forrest Plantation," but possibly the model for the house he built at Hales Ford several years later.⁴ The plans called for a large story-and-a-half dwelling with an asymmetrical center-passage plan, an ell, two sets of stairs, and a raised basement located under the ell room and one front room. It is clear from the numerous revisions on Hook's sketches that they represented ideas at an early stage of design development, and it is likely that he modified the plans further before building his house. In fact, the inventory of Hook's Hales Ford estate, begun in January 1809, describes a house with a "chamber," "Garret in [*sic*] the Chamber," and a "Hall Garret," a configuration most readily interpreted as a story-and-a-half house with a hall and chamber below mirrored by two garret rooms above--a more modest dwelling than the one projected in 1782.⁵

Hook's 1782 design, the house described in 1809, and the surviving dwelling share several features. Both the 1782 design and the surviving dwelling have comparably-sized cellars with (or with evidence of) two doors and four windows. The surviving dwelling has a two-room hall-parlor plan (a standard house plan of the period), as apparently did the hall-and-chamber house described in the inventory. It may be that of the house he planned in 1782, Hook completed only the two-room wing with stair located over the cellar; if so, his incomplete house would roughly match the surviving dwelling in size, plan, and east-west orientation. Whether these correspondences are real or accidental, it is likely that the surviving dwelling dates to the first third of the nineteenth century or earlier, based on architectural evidence such as the beaded joists and the cellar doors (albeit of questionable provenience) with HL and wrought strap hinges. Taken in toto, the evidence suggests that the surviving dwelling is in fact the home of John Hook and his family, or, also probable, that it was built soon after Hook's death by his daughter and son-in-law, Katherine and Booker Preston.

As enlarged by the Powell family in the 1850s, the present farmhouse is typical of the two-story, three-bay, Greek Revival dwellings built by Franklin County's more prosperous farmers during the mid-nineteenth century. A notable plan element is the absence of a doorway between the

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center passage and the west room at the second story level. This division may only be an artifact of the particular evolution of the house, or it may have been intentional, a way to increase the privacy of the upstairs bedrooms (the sequestering of the bedrooms of daughters from other upstairs bedrooms was a common Virginian practice during the mid-nineteenth century).

Integrity Statement

The Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm retains excellent integrity, both in terms of the architectural character of its buildings and in terms of its pristine setting. The fields, woods, and watercourses of the farm represent a pastoral oasis surrounded by resort development associated with Smith Mountain Lake; fortunately, virtually none of this development is visible from the farm. Since the early 1960s the main house has been unoccupied, and consequently it and the other buildings have suffered varying degrees of deterioration. In recent years, the main house and office have been secured from vandalism and their physical deterioration arrested, but the store continues to deteriorate. The buildings otherwise display excellent architectural integrity.

Endnotes

1. The inventory of Hook's estate made in 1809 refers to a lot of farm equipment at "H. Hunts place," possibly the residence of the farm overseer. Hook built a house comparable in size to the Dovetail Road ruin at another plantation, possibly for use by an overseer (Martin, "Buying into the world of goods," 280).
2. Ann Smart Martin interview.
3. Martin, "Buying into the world of goods," 199-218.
4. Martin, "Buying into the world of goods," 280.
5. Franklin County Will Book 2, p. 467; Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 105. The inventory also enumerates five window curtains; assuming that all windows were provided with curtains, a hall-parlor-plan house would be more likely to have five windows than a larger center-passage-plan house with ell. Ann Smart Martin has described the house projected by Hook in 1782 as "large, even ostentatious, in local terms" ("Buying into the world of goods," p. 281).

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm, located at Hales Ford in northeast Franklin County, Virginia, comprises several notable historic buildings, some dating to the establishment of the farm by backcountry merchant John Hook in the 1780s. Foremost among these is a Georgian-style frame building identified as Hook's store, one of only a handful of eighteenth-century commercial buildings to survive in the state. Nearby stands a ca. 1855 Greek Revival farmhouse that may incorporate Hook's dwelling, as well as the well-preserved ca. 1890 office and dispensary of Dr. John A. Moorman, a later owner of the farm. Together, these and other features form an ensemble of considerable historic and architectural interest.

Justification of Criteria

The Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A, B and C. The property is eligible in the area of commerce for the building identified as the ca. 1784 store of John Hook, one of only a dozen or so eighteenth-century store buildings known to survive in the state. In the area of health and medicine, the property is eligible for the well-preserved ca. 1890 office of Dr. John A. Moorman. Under criterion B, the farm is eligible for its association with John Hook (1745-1808), an important figure in the commercial and political life of backcountry Virginia during the late eighteenth century. The Georgian-style Hook store, later used as a slave quarter; the ca. 1855 Greek Revival main house, which incorporates an earlier dwelling; and the remains of another antebellum dwelling together constitute a resource of considerable architectural refinement and interest, rendering the property eligible in the area of architecture. The period of significance for the property extends from ca. 1782, the year it was apparently acquired by John Hook, to 1912, the year John A. Moorman died. The Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm possesses statewide significance.

Historical Background

The history of the Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm begins with the purchase of the property by Scottish-born merchant John Hook (1745-1808) in the early 1780s. Hook came to Virginia about 1759 to serve as a storekeeper for a Glasgow mercantile firm. His career as one of the Virginia backcountry's more colorful figures began in 1766, when he formed a partnership with Glasgow merchants William and James Donald and opened a store in the town of New London, then the seat of Bedford County. He formed a more advantageous association with Richmond merchant and industrialist David Ross in 1771 and soon opened a second store at Falling River in present

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Campbell County. A ruthless businessman, Hook never hesitated to take legal action against defaulters, and this coupled with his thinly veiled Loyalist sympathies brought him into conflict with local authorities during the opening years of the Revolution. As one historian has noted, "The swiftness with which the Bedford Committee of Safety moved against John Hook on the very day of its formation, May 23, 1775, can be taken as a measure of local hostility toward Hook."¹ Jailed, his property threatened, Hook swore his allegiance to Virginia in October 1777 and saved himself from the increasingly harsh repression of local Tory activity. Not surprisingly, Hook harbored a grudge, and his attempt to force the state of Virginia to reimburse him for two steers commandeered during the war made him the butt of a famous and stinging attack by Patrick Henry (representing the state's army commissary) in the so-called Beef Case.

Hook's negative experiences at New London and a break with David Ross prompted him to move his commercial operations to Hales Ford in neighboring Franklin County by 1784, at which time it is assumed he built the Georgian-style frame building identified as his store, and possibly also the one-story dwelling incorporated into the present farmhouse on the property.² The merchandise of the Hales Ford store was enumerated in an 1801 inventory as a result of Hook's legal wranglings with his former partner. The inventory describes a wide range of items, from buttons to anvils, and implies the specialized packaging of goods: small, delicate items protected by paper envelopes and tucked into pigeon holes, bulk items such as pepper and shot stored in barrels, glassware and crockery stacked in crates and trunks. As historian Ann Smart Martin has written of Hook's trade: "The quality, variety and fashionability of the items . . . hardly fits our preconceived notions of rugged, self-sufficient, backcountry life."³ Hook's store linked his clientele to international networks of production and trade and to the genteel culture of the metropolis.

John Hook's business activities flourished after the war.⁴ He dealt in slaves and land and accepted both in payment for debts, eventually amassing close to 40,000 acres in the states and territories of Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia, and, at the time of his death in 1808, a slaveholding that numbered 110 individuals.⁵ The inventory of his estate took up twenty-three pages in a Franklin County will book and the list of his debtors required an additional twenty-six pages. A Scotsman to the last, Hook was buried after the custom of his homeland under a cairn, described in the 1930s as "a pile of irregular rocks or boulders . . . just back of the house."⁶

The Hales Ford property eventually passed to John and his wife Elizabeth's daughter, Katherine (d. bef. 1840), and her husband, Booker Preston (ca. 1781-ca. 1852). Preston continued the

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Continuation SheetHook-Powell-Moorman Farm
Franklin Co., Va.Section number 8 Page 11**Statement of Significance (continued)**

operation of the store (and, by 1836, Hales Ford Post Office) alone or possibly in partnership with Smithson H. Davis and John O. Leftwich.⁷ In 1820, the first year building values were enumerated for Franklin County, the 346-acre "Halesford" property included improvements valued at \$2,000, among them the store, a distillery, and probably also the dwelling later incorporated in the present farmhouse.⁸ In 1840, Booker Preston owned thirty-six slaves, sixteen of whom were engaged in agriculture, and he owned thirty-four slaves in the early 1850s, of whom seven were apparently hired out to saltworks in Kanawha County, West Virginia.⁹ Preston's will, drafted in 1833, listed among his holdings "considerable real estate acquired under the will of the late John Hook" in Tennessee, Ohio "and perhaps elsewhere."¹⁰

An 1848 decree in Bedford County chancery court assigned the Hales Ford property to Katherine Preston's sister Margaret West, a transfer that is reflected in the tax records of the period, although Preston was permitted to live on the property until his death.¹¹ In December 1852, the Hook heirs sold the property to Llewellyn H. Powell (who had appraised the tract for the Franklin County court in January). Llewellyn (ca. 1811-?), later to be appointed Franklin County treasurer, and his wife, Elizabeth M. Sample (ca. 1819-ca. 1886), apparently built the present farmhouse during the one-year period between June 1855 and June 1856, when \$1,000 were "added for improvements."¹² Powell's purchase of the Hales Ford property was just one instance of his rising fortunes during the 1850s, a period of statewide economic growth. The 1850 census listed him as the owner of eight slaves, a figure that grew to twenty by 1860. The value of Powell's farm was enhanced by the Rocky Mount Turnpike, which passed directly in front of the farmhouse on its way from the Hales Ford Bridge to the county seat.¹³

A long-standing tradition links the family of African-American political leader Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. with the Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm during the Powell ownership. In fact, a recent biographer has claimed that Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. was born in the store/slave quarter behind the main house in May 1865, and that Adam's father was none other than Llewellyn Powell.¹⁴ Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. himself gives an entirely different account in his autobiography, stating that he was born near Martin's Mill on Magodee Creek, ten miles west of Hales Ford. His mother, Sally Dunning (who never divulged the identity of her son's father) was a member of a free mulatto family with no known connection to the family of Llewellyn Powell.¹⁵ In 1867, Sally married Anthony Bush, a former slave who "decided to take the name of Powell as a new identity."¹⁶ Bush's connection to the Hales Ford Powells, if any, is unknown.

Like many Virginia farmers who had accumulated large holdings of land and chattel before the

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Civil War, Llewellyn Powell found himself in financial straits after the war. In 1875, he transferred control of the core area of his Hales Ford property to his son, John R. Powell, and in August 1879, 236 acres were sold to John A. Moorman. This transfer was not recorded until 1885, and it seems likely that the Powells continued to live on the property until Elizabeth Powell's death in 1885 or 1886.¹⁷

According to family tradition, Bedford County native Dr. John Addison Moorman (1843-1912) moved to Franklin County about the year 1873 upon hearing that residents of the Hales Ford vicinity were in need of a physician.¹⁸ Moorman had become acquainted with medical practice while he served as an orderly at the Lynchburg Pest House (a smallpox hospital) during the Civil War.¹⁹ He studied first under the hospital's director, Dr. J. J. Terrell, and later at the University of Maryland and at New York's Bellevue Hospital before returning to Virginia in 1872 or 1873. In Franklin County, Moorman met and married Kate M. Price (1854-1921), and after moving to the Hales Ford property in the mid-1880s the couple practiced general farming, raising tobacco, corn, wheat, and livestock, and setting out pear and apple orchards. About 1890, Moorman built the office and dispensary that stands off the west end of the farmhouse; his extensive library and collection of medical equipment are now curated by the Lewis Gale Clinic in Roanoke.²⁰ The Moormans made several changes to the farmhouse, adding a second tier to the front porch and a one-story kitchen wing to the end of the two-story ell, and they also constructed the complex of domestic and agricultural outbuildings that once clustered around the farmhouse. The family was among the first in their neighborhood to be provided with telephone service, when a line was extended from the county seat of Rocky Mount to nearby Taylor's Store shortly after 1904.²¹

John and Kate Moorman's son, Warren L. Moorman, Sr. (d. 1963), purchased the property after his mother's death. An office manager of the Railway Electric Company, Moorman lived in Salem and operated the farm on an absentee basis. After retiring in 1947, Moorman lived and farmed on the property during weekdays. In 1964, the 207-acre core area of the Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm passed to the present owner, Dr. Warren L. Moorman, Jr. of Salem.

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Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm
Franklin Co., Va.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Endnotes

1. Moorman, "John Hook," 47. The discussion of John Hook is taken largely from Dr. Moorman's article.
2. The removal of the Bedford County seat from New London to Liberty (Bedford) at roughly the same time may also have been a factor in Hook's move to Hales Ford.
3. Martin, "Buying into the world of goods," 207-08, 248.
4. Before the war, the store of Hook and Ross probably figured among the larger and more prosperous establishments in its region, but at a capitalization of £4,000 in 1773 it paled before the chain of backcountry stores operated by the Scottish firm of William Cuninghame & Company, capitalized at £72,000 (Martin, "Buying into the world of goods," 233.).
5. Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 105.
6. WPA report. All traces of the cairn have apparently vanished.
7. Will of Booker Preston, Franklin County Will Book 7, p. 432; Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, p. 119.
8. Franklin County tax records. It is not known whether the Preston's lived in this dwelling at first, since the 1820s land books list Booker Preston as a resident of Bedford County.
9. United States Census, Franklin County free and slave population schedules, 1840 and 1850; Franklin County Will Book 8. p. 30.
10. Franklin County Will Book 7, p. 432.
11. Franklin County Deed Book 21, p. 123. The value of buildings on the Hales Ford property dropped to \$1,000 in the late 1830s, perhaps the consequence of a devaluation associated with the nationwide depression of the period, rather than a result of the loss of buildings.
12. Franklin County tax records. Curiously, when the Hales Ford tract was first listed under Powell's name in 1854, the value of buildings on the property was recorded as \$0.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

13. Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 143. VA 122 coincides with part of the turnpike, but a relatively unaltered section of the old road is visible to the west of the farmhouse on the north side of the present highway. The road that preceded the turnpike, which linked Franklin County and the region further west and south to the Roanoke and James rivers, was an important factor in John Hook's selection of the Hales Ford site for his store.

14. Haygood, *King of the Cats*, 59; *Franklin News-Post*, January 12, 1967.

15. United States Census, Franklin County free population schedule, 1860.

16. Hamilton, *Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.*, 41-42.

17. Franklin County Deed Book 37, p. 160, and Will Book 20, p. 420.

18. An 1884 business directory lists Moorman as a physician in the Scruggs vicinity of Franklin County (located near Hales Ford), and William P. Reese as a physician in the Taylor's Store area (also near Hales Ford). In 1893, Moorman was listed as a physician in the Hales Ford vicinity.

19. Chambers, *Lynchburg*, 206.

20. Warren L. Moorman, M.D., interview, Hales Ford, Va., November 1994.

21. Claiborne, *Franklin County*, 21. During Prohibition, Franklin County's notorious "blockaders" cut this line, and the Hales Ford area remained without phone service until after World War II (Moorman interview).

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**Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm
Franklin Co., Va.**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm nominated parcel are shown on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies this report.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm nominated parcel include all known buildings and sites associated with the period of significance.

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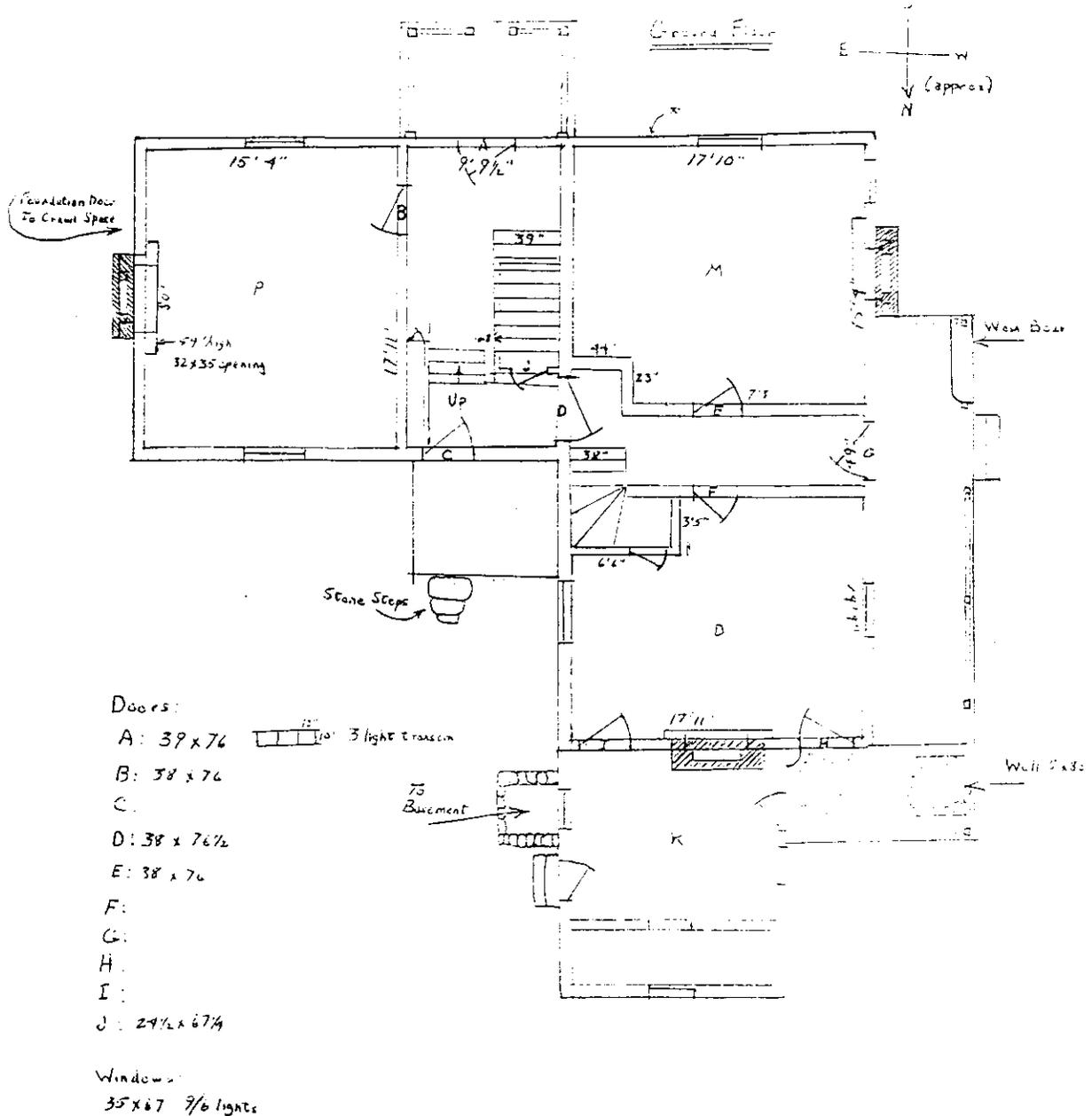


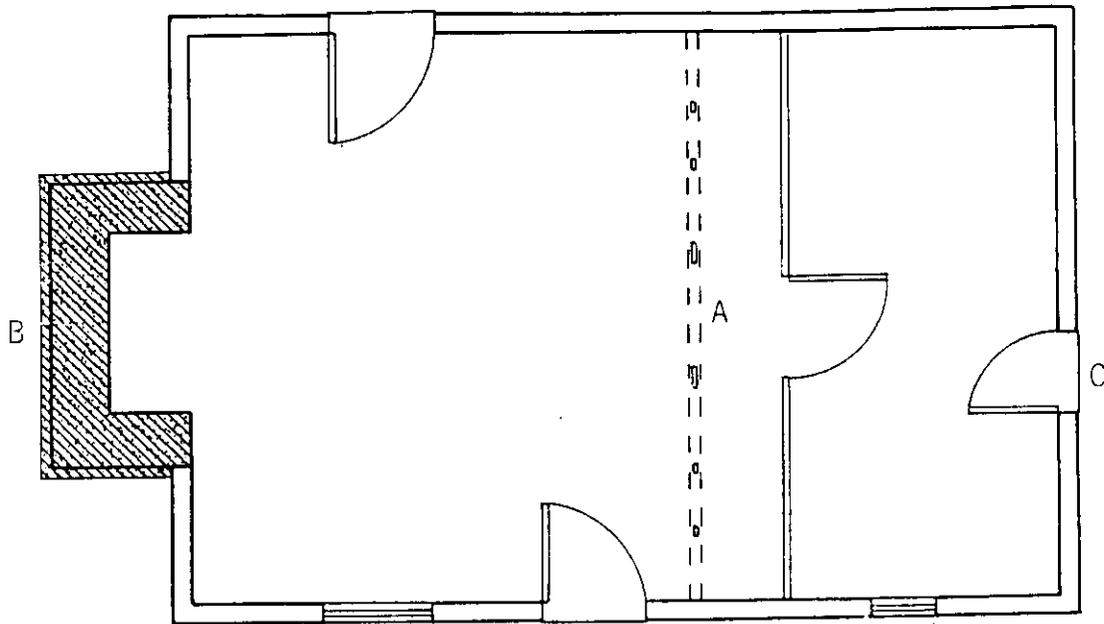
Exhibit A. Hook-Powell-Moorman farmhouse, first-floor plan. Measured and drawn by Dr. Warren L. Moorman, 1966. Not to scale. Rooms "M" and "D" and the intervening passage represent the original section of the house.

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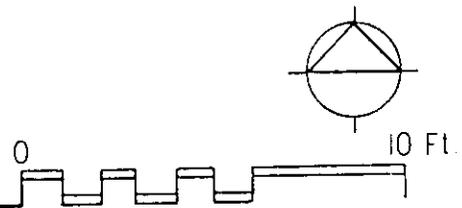
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HOOK STORE



- A: Door location in original partition
- B: Chimney 2nd quarter 19th century
- C: Door early 20th century

Measured by A. Martin, M. Moodey, & C. Lounsbury; December 1991

Exhibit B. John Hook Store. Measured by A. Martin, M. Moodey, and C. Lounsbury, 1991.
Scale: 1" = 5'. Courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Hook-Powell-Moorman Farm

Hales Ford vicinity, Franklin Co., Va.

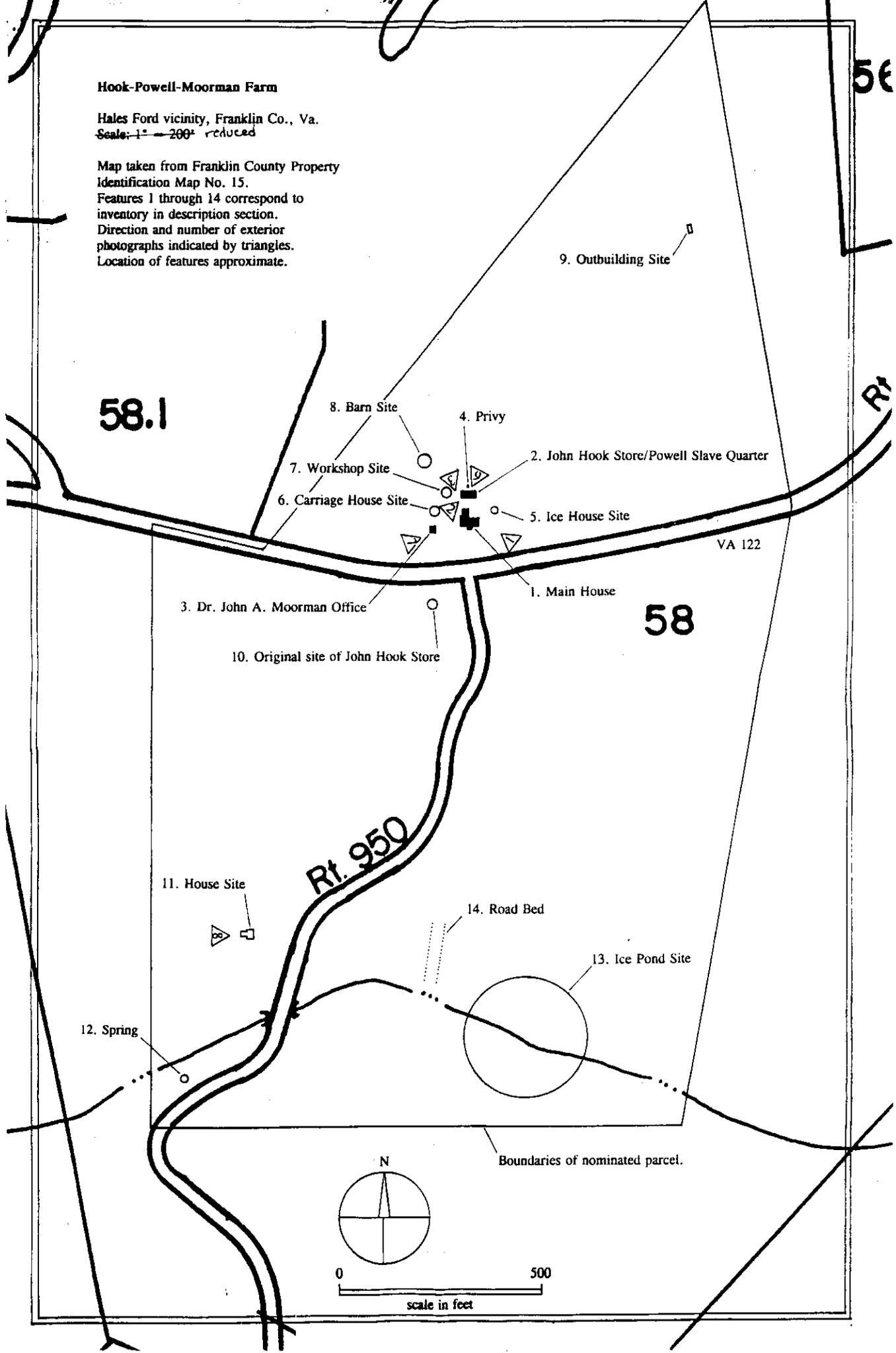
Scale: 1" = 200' reduced

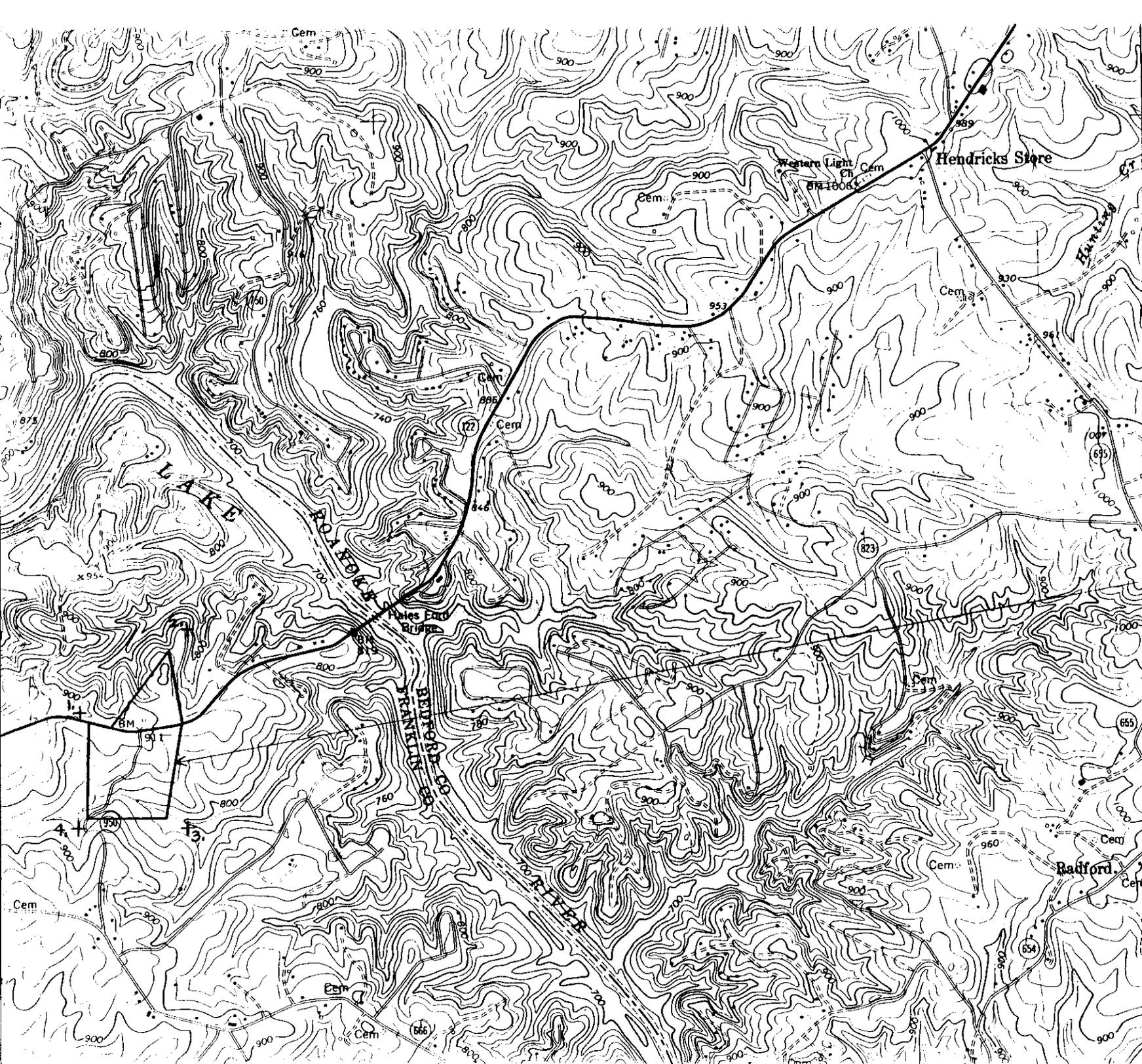
Map taken from Franklin County Property Identification Map No. 15.

Features 1 through 14 correspond to inventory in description section.

Direction and number of exterior photographs indicated by triangles.

Location of features approximate.





10'
4114

4113

4112 Hook-Fowell-Moorman
Farm, Franklin Co., VA
UTM refs (zone 17)

1. E 616950
N 411150
2. E 617490
N 4111550
3. E 617490
N 4110600
4. E 616950
N 4110600

4111

411000m N.